

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

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R 280627Z JAN 75  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4914

CONFIDENTIAL CANBERRA 0593

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, XX  
SUBJ: MILITARY UTILITY OF AND POLICY VALUE OF MASTER  
DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS

REF: STATE 012376

1. SUMMARY. MASTER DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT HAS HAD NO  
ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR GENERAL RELATIONS WITH GOA, AND  
PROJECTS APPROVED UNDER IT MAY BE OF LIMITED USEFULNESS  
IN FURTHERING U.S.-AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION IN DEFENSE  
MATTERS. TO DATE THE SPECIFIC PROJECTS HERE ARE OF MUCH  
MORE BENEFIT TO THE GOA THEN TO THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. MASTER DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT HAS HAD LITTLE EFFECT  
ON GENERAL US-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS BUT PROJECTS APPROVED  
UNDER IT MAY BE OF SOME USE IN FURTHERING US-AUSTRALIAN  
COOPERATION IN MILITARY R&D. THERE ARE TWO DOD (ARPA)  
EMPLOYEES IN AUSTRALIA MONITORING PROJECTS APPROVED UNDER  
THIS AGREEMENT, AND TECHNICAL MILITARY AND CONTRACT PER-  
SONNEL MAKE PERIODIC TDY VISITS.

3. WHILE SPECIFIC PROJECTS ARE APPROVED ONLY AFTER REVIEW  
BY AMBASSADOR, DCM, AND POLITICAL SECTION, PRELIMINARY DIS-  
CUSSIONS ON PROPOSED PROJECTS CAN AND DO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN  
US-AUSTRALIAN DOD EXPERTS BOTH IN AUSTRALIA AND IN  
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THE UNITED STATES. EMBASSY SOMETIMES LEARNS OF NEW

PROJECT PROPOSALS ONLY AFTER RATHER EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL EXCHANGES HAVE OCCURRED.

4. NO PROJECTS HAVE LED TO PROPOSALS FOR CO-PRODUCTION AGREEMENTS OR ACTUAL CO-PRODUCTION. THE MASTER AGREEMENT HAS NOT LED THE GOA TO EXPECT THE USG TO PROVIDE MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY THAN GOA SHOULD REASONABLY EXPECT.

5. IN OUR VIEW, AUSTRALIA IS BENEFITTING MUCH MORE THAN THE US FROM DATA PROVIDED FROM PROJECTS CONCLUDED UNDER THE MASTER AGREEMENT. SO FAR MOST OF THE DATA FLOW HAS BEEN ONE WAY, AND ARPA HAS CARRIED LION'S SHARE OF FINANCING. ON THE OTHER HAND, U.S. WISHES TO RETAIN ITS IMPORTANT DEFENSE FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA AND THESE R&D PROJECTS HAVE MADE SOME CONTRIBUTION TO SENSE OF ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP AND GOOD WILL.

6. EMBASSY BELIEVES STATE DEPT CONTROL OVER FUTURE MASTER AGREEMENTS COULD BE ENSURED IF DEPT REPRESENTATIVE EITHER FROM PM OR INR WERE DESIGNATED AS A MEMBER OF THE STEERING COMMITTEES, WHENEVER THEY MEET, WHICH MANAGE AND COORDINATE PROJECTS UNDER SUCH AGREEMENTS. INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS CAN BE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE IN OUR EXPERIENCE, WHICH REINFORCES NECESSITY FOR STATE PARTICIPATION.

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## Message Attributes

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